श्री अजित सिंह: यह प्रतिबंध कोई भी स्टेट बिना केन्द्र की अनुमति के नहीं लगा सकती है। कुछ स्टेट्स ने लगाया था और हमने उनसे कहा है कि आप ऐसा नहीं कर सकते। तो यह प्रतिबंध उन्होंने वापिस ले लिया।

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: सभापति महोदय, 135 करोड़ रुपए राजस्थान सरकार ने मांगे थे और 11 करोड़ रुपए दिए हैं।

श्री सभापति: उस दिन अकाल पर डिबेट थी। अगर उस दिन बोलते तो सारा जवाब मिल जाता। उस दिन तो आप थे नहीं।

*245. *[The questioner (Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad) was absent. For answer vide pages* 41-42 *infra].*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 246.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you permit me, I would like to put this question. I have the authority from Mrs. Shabana Azmi to put this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second round में देखेंगे।

*246. *[The questioners (Shrimati Shabana Azmi and Dr. Prabha Thakur) were absent. For answer vide pages* 39-40 *infra].*

Killing of snakes by Madaris

*247. SHRI R.K. ANAND:††
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that snakes are caught all over the country and sacrificed in Snake-Mongoose fights by Madaris (road showman);

(b) if so, whether Government have imposed a ban to save both the snakes and mongoose;

(c) if so, the punishment against Madaris indulging in such heinous act;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri R.K. Anand.

(e) whether Government feel the need to register all Madaris in the country and to restrict their collection of snakes at all times?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALLU): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Cases of illegal capture, possession and killing of snakes and mongoose, for various purposes including for road shows have been reported from different parts of the country.

(b) Hunting of wild animals, including snakes and mongoose, is prohibited under the provisions of The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Inciting any animal to fight or bait any other animal is prohibited under the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

(c) The violation of provisions of The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 attracts imprisonment upto six years and fine upto twenty five thousand rupees or both while the violation of provisions of the The Prevention of Cruelty of Animals Act, 1960 attracts imprisonment upto three months and fine upto five hundred rupees or both.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 already provides that no person shall exhibit or train any performing animal unless he is registered in accordance with the provisions of Chapter V of the Act. Catching of snakes is prohibited under The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

SHRI R.K. ANAND: Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted in his reply that there are a number of cases of illegal capture, possession and killing of snakes and mongooses. But he has not mentioned as to how many cases have been booked and how many people have been convicted and fined.

श्री सभापति: यह मदारियों का मामला है।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question pertains to snake-mongoose fights. My friend, Shri Anand, is a senior laywer. He knows there are adequate provisions to protect animals under the

Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. This particular phenomenon of exhibiting mongoose and animals on roads is there not because of any affinity, it is there because they want to earn their daily bread and livelihood. There are laws to prohibit such things. Our officers go there and capture the animals and leave them either in Rescue Centres or in the natural forest. These are the things which are happening. I do admit that we are not very strict against those people because they are underprivileged people and they are working for earning their daily bread.

SHRI R.K. ANAND: Sir, skins of these animals are being used for making articles which are being sold in the open market in India, particularly in Delhi. These skins are also being exported. What is the Government doing in this regard?

SHRI T.R. BAALLU: Sir, many people have been apprehended at various international airports. Our officers, in association with the CBI and other police officers have apprehended many criminals. Many people are being tried in the court of law. We are doing everything possible. If Shri Anand wants to have a list of names, I will pass it on to Shri Anand.

श्री सभापति: आप कहां मदारियों में फंस गए। आप कहां मदारियों में फंस रहे हैं।

श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया: सर आप सुनेंगे तो पता लग जायेगा। सर, मुझे बोलने दीजिएगा। 'अज्ञेय' ने सांप पर कविता लिखी है:-

सांप तुम सभ्य तो हुए नहीं, न होगे।
नगर में बसना भी तुम्हें नहीं आया,
एक बात पूछूं, उत्तर दोगे?
फिर कैसे सीखा डसना, इतना विष कहां पाया!

Sir, taking out poison for medicinal reasons has become a regular practice in many of the States, particularly in Tamil Nadu. I would like to know whether animal rights are being affected by this or not. Doesn't it amount to cruelty to animals? I can understand that these are poor people. But these shows are taking place in hotels also. Are you taking any action against these hotels? These shows are being conducted within the premises of some hotels. It is very cruel. Are you going to take any action against the hotel authorities?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I have not come across any such complaint. If the hon. Member has any specific complaint, I will instruct my Department to take strict action.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, this question pertains to snakes being killed and their skins being sold in the market. Sir, snakes are also killing human beings. What is the Government doing to protect human beings from snake-biting? I understand that there is no medicine to cure it. Many people die in villages because of snake-bites.

श्री सभापति: आपके गले में सांप है?

डा० टी० सुब्बारामी रेड्डी: सर, हम तो सेफ हैं।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, snakes do not bite human beings. The snakes go here and there in the forest in search of prey. They are not in search of human beings. But the human beings are disturbing the snakes. Anyway, snakes are not trying to capture human beings, who are very, very large in number as compared to their prey, say, frogs, small eggs and so on.

श्री लालू प्रसाद: सभापति महोदय, कृपया प्रश्न को देखा जाए। मदारी और सपेरे में अंतर हुआ करता है। मदारी वे होते हैं जो बंदर को, भालू को डमरू बजा-बजाकर नचाते हैं और अपनी परवरिश करते हैं - वैसे भी उनका रोज़गार छीन लिया गया है। दूसरे होते हैं - सपेरे। सपेरा बीन बजाकर, सांप को फंसाकर, झोले में लाकर, मिट्टी की थैली में रखकर, दूध पिलाकर, मारता नहीं है, वह सांप की जहर की थैली निकाल देता है और फिर लोगों को तमाशा दिखाकर अपनी परवरिश करता है। मदारी और सपेरा - हो सकता है कि राज - राज में अंतर हो - लेकिन यह मानी हुई बात है कि मदारी और सपेरा दो जातियां हैं। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि सांप का जो कर्तव्य है, वह उसे करता है लेकिन इंसान उस सांप को देखते ही मार देता है। सांप जहरीला न हो, फिर भी उसको देखते ही मार देता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से और उनके विभाग से कहना चाहता हूं कि अभी शीत लहर चली, ठंड का प्रकोप बड़े पैमाने पर रहा, बड़े पैमाने पर जितने भी गेहूंअन सांप बिहार में थे, स्पैशली नार्थ बिहार में, फील्ड में, खेत-खलिहानों में और गांव के घरों के अंदर भी, ये सांप बड़े पैमाने पर मरे हैं। महोदय, जिस धर्म ग्रंथ की चर्चा हम लोग करते हैं उसमें लिखा है कि 84 लाख योनियां है। आदमी घूमते-घूमते जब सांप की योनी में आता है और सांप की योनी में आने के बाद जब वह मरता है, तब इंसान बनता है, तब उसका मनुष्य जाति में परिवर्तन होता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या आपने बिहार में सर्वेक्षण करवाया है और अगर नहीं करवाया है तो कराकर देखेंगे कि बड़े पैमाने पर गेहूंअन सांप, पुराने सांप जब बिल से बाहर आए तो इतनी ठंड थी

कि वे सब मर गये। अगर सांप को रखना है तो फिर उनको नए ढंग से पुनर्जन्म देने के लिए क्या कोई इंतजाम आपके पास है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री तथा महासागर विकास मंत्री (डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी): वे तो अब मनुष्य बन गए हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: साथ में यह भी देख लीजिए कि बिहार में मरे हुए सांपों में से कितने सांप मनुष्य के रूप में परिवर्तित हुए?

डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी: उनमें से कोई सदन में न आ जाए, इतना मैं आपसे निवेदन करता हूं।

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: सभापति महोदय...

श्री सभापति: आपकी कविता हम बाद में सुनेंगे।

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: मैं केवल इतना कहना चाहता हूं कि आपकी अध्यक्षता में यह ऐतिहासिक प्रश्न है। लालू का प्रश्न है और बालू का उत्तर है। आज क्या होने वाला है, यह देखने वाली बात है।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I am a rationalist and I don't have any belief in re-birth. But, in this birth, my close association with Shri Laloo Yadav will have a history behind it.

*248. *[The questioner (Shri Gaya Singh) was absent. For answer vide page 42 infra.]*

*249. *[The questioner (Shri Vijay J. Darda) was absent. For answer vide page 42-43 infra.]*

Forest area in Jammu and Kashmir

*250. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area under forest in Jammu and Kashmir in 1950 and at present;

(b) whether the area under forest has declined; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase the area under forest in the State?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.